



LMS Talking Points

3-30-05

Why does public health need a Learning Management System (LMS)?

An LMS will benefit both the public health employees who participate in training, their supervisors and managers, and the organizations they work for.

An LMS will track training taken by all public health workers. By doing this, it can evaluate the public health network's readiness to respond to emergencies and critical events.

Course research, registration, tracking, feedback, and in many cases the actual training, are all handled at one place. This will save time and ensure training is handled consistently across the state.

Every public health worker can use it – whether they work for the state, local public health, or a partner organization.

Since this LMS will be specifically designed for public health, it can be customized to meet specific public health needs. The system can be tied directly to Washington's public health standards and competencies if that is desired.

The LMS will make it easier to do workforce planning, and tie training to individual development plans.

Training can be targeted to individual interests, and an organization's needs. This can lead to better job performance and higher job satisfaction.

The LMS will allow employees, supervisors, and organizations to track training progress, and print certificates of completion when training has been taken.

Public health will have a library of training resources at its fingertips.

What's happening?

The LMS Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) – made up of representatives from local health jurisdictions, the University of Washington, and the Department of Health – has been working with GeoLearning, the vendor responsible for the LMS, on the various features needed.

The IAC has been strategizing about working with pilot sites to test the LMS so it will be high quality when presented to the rest of public health.

Learning Management staff are working on tools for training people to use the system. Staff will ensure the technology is in place, the support functions are ready to go, resources are available to help people use the system, and ongoing maintenance will be taken care of.

Within the next month, the LMS will be presented to several volunteer pilot sites for testing and initial use. Those pilot sites are:

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Region 3
- Cowlitz County Health Department
- Spokane Regional Health District
- A program within Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Department of Health's Public Health Lab
- Department of Health's Radiation Safety Program

Issues identified by the pilot groups will be addressed before the LMS is made available to everyone.

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